THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Decision was taken during last week on June, 2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) A show cause notice has been issued of M/s. Hindustan Development Corporation for use of non-specified steel in place of corten steel in manufacturing of wagons. Decision on the show cause notice will be taken after consideration of the reply from the firm. M/s. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) have issued Letter of Intent on M/s. Hindustan Engineering & Industries on 01.5.2001 and the order has been placed on 07.6.2001.

Procurement of Wagons

760. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Ninth Five Year Plan target of procurement of wagons in FWUs;

(b) the wagons procured till March 2001;

(c) the short-fall in procurement against Ninth Five Year Plan target;

(d) the details of action taken to fulfil the target; and

(e) the wagon orders placed in 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) For the Ninth Five Year Plan period, wagon requirement was originally as 1,75,000 in terms of four wheeler units. However, due to decline in traffic growth, it was revised to 1,36,000 in terms of four wheeler units during mid term review. Recent reviews have, however, shown declining trend in wagon requirement.

(b) In the first four years of Ninth Five Year Plan, a total of 87,315.4 four wheeler unit wagons (FWUs) have been acquired.

(c) and (d) Full requirement of wagons has been purchased as per traffic needs and there is no shortfall as per the current requirement.

(e) For the year 2001-02, an order for 2460 four wheeler unit wagons have been placed under +30% option clause against 2000-2001 contract. Apart from this, wagon manufacturers had an outstanding load of 7917.5 FWUs as on 1.4.2001. A quantity of 2000 FWUs has been earmarked for manufacturing by Railway Workshops. This makes the total coverage for 2001-2002 as about 12,000 FWUs so far.

Corporatisation of the Railways

761. SHRI K. KALAVENTKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move for corporatisation of the Railways as proposed by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Whereas it is true that customer focus and quality of service provided to users of both Indian Railways freight and passenger services need to improve, Ministry of Railways does not subscribe to the view that significant benefits would accrue by corporatising the organisation as a whole. The Expert Group (Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee) on Railways, however, has made suggestions in its Interim Executive summary regarding restructuring. The final report is still awaited.

Increasing the number of rail reservation centres

762. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article "Dalalon se Mukti ke liye aarakshan kendron ki sankhya badana jaroori", appearing in the Navbharat Times, dated the 14th May, 2001; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.